IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1-10 and rewrite their subject matter as follows::

--11. (New) A pharmaceutical composition in solid dosage form formulated for oral administration and prepared by direct compression or granulation, comprising at least one active ingredient and at least one low melting wax having a melting point of about 30°C to 40°C, wherein the nature and proportion of ingredients is sufficient to increase the rate at which said active ingredient is absorbed in an intestine, and to sustain the release of said active ingredient as compared to the absorption rate and release rate of said active ingredient in an otherwise similar composition and form but in the absence of said wax.

--12. (New) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 11 wherein said solid form is at least one selected from the group consisting of tablets, capsules, granules, microcapsules and dragees.

--13. (New) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 11 further comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of a binder, a glidant, a lubricant and any other excipient.

--14. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for oral administration according to claim 11 in the form of a tablet.

--15. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for oral administration according to claim 11 wherein said composition in the form of microspheres.

--16. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for oral administration according to claim 11 wherein said composition in the form of capsules.

--17. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein the low-melting wax is at least one glyceride of a long-chain fatty acid.

--18. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein the low-melting wax comprises hard fat based on at least one glyceride of a fatty acid having 12 to 18 carbon atoms.

--19. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein said composition comprises about 0.1% to 80% by weight of said low-melting wax.

--20. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 comprising a plurality of waxes at least some of which have different melting points, where at least one wax melts within the range of 30°C to 40°C, and wherein said combination of waxes is sufficient in formulation and amounts to impart sustained rate of release of said active compound.

--21. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 further comprising a proportion of said wax that is sufficient to protect molecules against gastric fluid that are sensitive to low pH.

--22. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for oral administration according to claim 11 further comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of: binder, glint, lubricant and excipient.

--23. (New) A pharmaceutical composition formulated for oral administration according to claim 11 prepared by a granulation process.

--24. (New) A pharmaceutical composition formulated for oral administration according to claim 11 further comprising a surfactant.

--25. (New) A pharmaceutical composition formulated for oral administration according to claim 11 further comprising a proportion and composition of said wax that is sufficient to protect proteins and peptides from being degraded by the proteolytic enzymes in an intestinal lumen.

--26. (New) A method of increasing the absorption rate of an active material in an intestine comprising compressing or granulating a composition comprising said active material and at least one low melting wax having a melting point of about 30°C to 40°C into a solid dosage form, and orally administering said solid dosage form.

A2 cont.

--27. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26 comprising compressing said active ingredient(s) and said wax(es) into said solid dosage form.

--28. New) A method as claimed in claim 26 comprising granulating said active ingredient(s) and said wax(es) into said solid dosage form.

--29. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26 further comprising forming an admixture comprising a plurality of said waxes and said active ingredient and compressing or granulating said admixture into said solid dosage form.

--30. (New) A method as claimed in claim 26 further comprising compressing or granulating about 0.1 to 80 weight per cent of wax with said active material.

--31. (New) A method of sustaining release of an active material from a solid composition comprising compressing or granulating said active material and at least one low melting wax having a melting point of about 30°C to 40°C into a solid dosage form, and orally administering said solid dosage form.

--32. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 comprising compressing said active ingredient(s) and said wax(es) into said solid dosage form.

--33. New) A method as claimed in claim 31 comprising granulating said active ingredient(s) and said wax(es) into said solid dosage form.

--34. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 further comprising forming an admixture comprising a plurality of said waxes and said active ingredient and compressing or granulating said admixture into said solid dosage form.

--35. (New) A method as claimed in claim 31 further comprising compressing or granulating about 0.1 to 80 weight per cent of wax with said active material.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the patentability of the claims of the instant patent application is solicited in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

It should be noted that the new claims presented herein are in both composition and method of use format. In the first place, it is believed that the claimed compositions are novel and have an unusual and unobvious use which should make them patentable in their own right. In the second place, the new and unobvious uses of these claimed compositions are distinctly patentable separate and aside from the issue of whether the compositions are themselves patentable.

It is believed that both of these claim formats are directed to the same invention in that the unusual and unobvious properties of the product claimed herein are recited in the product claims and are indeed active limitation on the scope of these claims. Similarly, the method of use claims include the claimed composition as a necessary feature of the claims. Therefore, it is urged that both sets of claims be examined together and that no restriction requirement be entered.

It is not believed that any extension of time is required to be petitioned for in order to maintain the pendency of this application. However, if such an extension is required, kindly consider this to be a petition therefore. It is believed that fee filed herewith is correct. However, if